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EXAMINER

WANG, LIANG CHE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/27/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/667,857

Applicant(s)

KARAOGUZ ET AL.

Examiner

Liang-che Alex Wang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-22 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. A reference to the prior application No. 60/432,472, filed on December 11, 2002, application No. 60/443,894 filed on January 30, 2003, application No. 60/448,658 filed on February 18, 2003 have been inserted as the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76). The claim for benefit of relying on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Information provided in paragraph [01], lines 16 and 19 of the specification is incomplete. US Patent Application numbers are missing in the Incorporation by Reference section. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lu, US Patent Number 7,065,778 B1, hereinafter Lu.

6. Referring to claim 1, Lu teaches a system (system 300, figure 3) providing search functionality to support the exchange and consumption of media (Col 11 lines 41-53, Col 2 lines 9-28), the system comprising:

a first television display (display 212 of PVR 200A; figure 2 and Col 6 lines 21-28) in a first home (the place where PVR 200A resides corresponds to “a first home”; Col 6 lines 43-61, Col 1 lines 64-67, figure 3);

a first storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200A corresponds to “a first storage”) in the first home that stores the media (Col 6 lines 50-53, Col 10 lines 40-43);

the first storage supporting consumption of the media by the first television display in the first home (Col 10 lines 26-29, 40-43, data storage device 218 of a PVR is used for storing TV programs for future viewing), and having an associated first network address (IP address of PVR 200A corresponds to “an associated first network address”; Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address);

a second television display (display 212 of PVR 200; Col 6 lines 21-28) in a second home (the place where PVR 200 resides corresponds to “a second home”; figure 3);

a second storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200 corresponds to “a second storage”) supporting consumption of the media by the second television display in the second home (Col 10 lines 26-29, 40-43, data storage device 218 of a PVR is used for

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storing TV programs for future viewing), and having an associated second network address (IP address of PVR 200 corresponds to “an associated second network address”; Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address);

search software (EGP server 304) that receives a request (search topic from PVR 200) comprising user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-24, user-filled search form corresponds to “user defined search criteria”) and one of the first and second associated network protocol addresses (IP address of PVR 200, Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address), the first and second associated network protocol addresses (IP address of PVR 200 and PVR 200A) representing members of a pre-defined group of users (Col 6 lines 39-61, users associated with IP addresses of PVRs corresponds to “members of a pre-defined group of users”, PVR available in the search database are members of a pre-defined group of users), and responds by identifying media stored on at least one of the first and second storage (PVR 200A is located to provide the requested content, Col 12 lines 55-61, Col 31-35) the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 11 lines 43-53, Col 12 lines 29-32, the matched result is returned to PVR 200).

7. Referring to claim 2, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio; a still image, video, and data (Col 7 lines 25-28, network 300 operate with any type of media content: audio, video, graphics, information, data, and/or the like in any type of format).
8. Referring to claim 3, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the first and second network protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access

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control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN) (Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address).

9. Referring to claim 4, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the first storage and second storage communicatively couple via a communication network that comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure (Col 7 lines 1-8, PVR 200, 200A and EGP server 304 may be coupled via coaxial cable, copper wire, fiber optics, the Internet 302, wireless communication and the like).
10. Referring to claim 5, Lu teaches the system of claim 4 wherein the communication network is the Internet (Col 7 lines 1-8, Internet 302).
11. Referring to claim 6, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data (Col 7 lines 25-28, types of media supported by system 300 are audio, video, graphics, information, data, and/or the like in any type of format).
12. Referring to claim 7, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the user defined search criteria comprises at least one of a time period, a device type, a specific media, a media type, a specific media channel, and a media channel type (Col 12 lines 10-24, Col 6 lines 43-45, the search topics which contains the requested TV show corresponds to "a specific media").
13. Referring to claim 10, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 further comprising: at least one server (EGP server 340, figure 3) for storing media (Col 7 lines 48-53, Col 8 lines 24-26) the at least one server having been designated by a user for searching (Col 11 lines 41-47,

PVR 200 sends search topics to server 304); and the search software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one server (Col 11 lines 48-53), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 11 lines 42-48, Col 12 lines 19-29).

14. Referring to claim 11, Lu teaches the system of claim 10 wherein the at least one server comprises at least one of a 3rd party media provider, a media peripheral, a personal computer, a 3rd party storage vendor, and a broadband head end (Col 7 lines 20-24, lines 53-58, server 304 could be a 3rd party storage vendor).
15. Referring to claim 12, Lu teaches a system (system 300, figure 3) providing search functionality to support the exchange and consumption of media (Col 11 lines 41-53, Col 2 lines 9-28), the system comprising:

a first storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200A corresponds to “a first storage”) for storing media (Col 6 lines 50-53, Col 10 lines 40-43) in a first home (the place where PVR 200A resides corresponds to “a first home”; Col 6 lines 43-61; Col 1 lines 64-67; figure 3), and having an associated first protocol address (IP address of PVR 200A corresponds to “an associated first protocol address”; Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address);

a second storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200 corresponds to “a second storage”) for storing media (Col 6 lines 50-53, Col 10 lines 40-43) in a second home (the place where PVR 200 resides corresponds to “a second home”; figure 3), and having an associated second protocol address (IP address of PVR 200 corresponds to “an associated second protocol address”; Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address);

set top box circuitry (PVR 200A corresponds to “set top box circuitry”; Col 5 lines 26-35), in the first home, communicatively coupled to support searching of storage at the first and second associated protocol addresses (Col 11 lines 41-62, PVR 200A is located to provided the requested content).

search software (EGP server 304) that receives a request (search topic from PVR 200) comprising user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-24, user-filled search form corresponds to “user defined search criteria”) and one of the first and second associated network protocol addresses (IP address of PVR 200, Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address), the first and second associated network protocol addresses (IP address of PVR 200 and PVR 200A) representing members of a pre-defined group of users (Col 6 lines 39-61, users associated with IP addresses of PVRs corresponds to “members of a pre-defined group of users”, PVR available in the search database are members of a pre-defined group of users), and responds by identifying the other of the first and second associated protocol addresses and the media available at the first and second associated protocol addresses (Col 6 lines 45-50, IP address of PVR 200A is located (identified) for server to send request to record desired TV shows) the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 11 lines 43-53, Col 12 lines 29-32, the matched result is returned to PVR 200).

16. Referring to claim 13, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data (Col 7 lines 25-28, network 300 operate with any type of media content: audio, video, graphics, information, data, and/or the like in any type of format).

17. Referring to claim 14, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the first and second protocol addresses are one of an Internet protocol (IP) address, a media access control (MAC) address, and an electronic serial number (ESN) (Col 10 lines 10-15, each PVR is associated with an IP address).
18. Referring to claim 15, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the set top box circuitry and the second storage communicatively couple via a communication network that comprises at least one of a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, and a wireless infrastructure (Col 7 lines 1-8, PVR 200, 200A and EGP server 304 may be coupled via coaxial cable, copper wire, fiber optics, the Internet 302, wireless communication and the like).
19. Referring to claim 16, Lu teaches the system of claim 15 wherein the communication network is the Internet (Col 7 lines 1-8, Internet 302).
20. Referring to claim 17, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 wherein consumption comprises at least one of playing digitized audio, displaying a still image, displaying video, and displaying data (Col 7 lines 25-28, types of media supported by system 300 are audio, video, graphics, information, data, and/or the like in any type of format).
21. Referring to claim 18, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 wherein the user defined search criteria comprises at least one of a time period, a device type, a specific media, a media type, a specific media channel, and a media channel type (Col 12 lines 10-24, Col 6 lines 43-45, the search topics which contains the requested TV show corresponds to "a specific media").

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22. Referring to claim 21, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 further comprising: at least one server (EGP server 340, figure 3) for storing media (Col 7 lines 48-53, Col 8 lines 24-26) the at least one server having been designated by a user for searching (Col 11 lines 41-47, PVR 200 sends search topics to server 304); and the search software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one server (Col 11 lines 48-53), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 11 lines 42-48, Col 12 lines 19-29).
23. Referring to claim 22, Lu teaches the system of claim 21 wherein the at least one server comprises at least one of a 3rd party media provider, a media peripheral, a personal computer, a 3rd party storage vendor, and a broadband head end (Col 7 lines 20-24, lines 53-58, server 304 could be a 3rd party storage vendor).
24. Referring to claim 23, Lu teaches a system (system 300, figure 3) providing search functionality to support the exchange and consumption of media (Col 11 lines 41-53, Col 2 lines 9-28), the system comprising:
- a first storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200A corresponds to “a first storage”) for storing media (Col 6 lines 50-53, Col 10 lines 40-43) in a first home (the place where PVR 200A resides corresponds to “a first home”; Col 6 lines 43-61; Col 1 lines 64-67; figure 3) of a first user (Col 6 lines 43-45, user of PVR 200A), the first user being one of a pre-defined group of users (Col 6 lines 39-61, users associated with IP addresses of PVRs corresponds to “members of a pre-defined group of users”);
 - a second storage (data storage device 218 of PVR 200 corresponds to “a second storage”) for storing media (Col 6 lines 50-53, Col 10 lines 40-43) in a second home (the place where PVR 200 resides corresponds to “a second home”; figure 3) of a second user, (Col 6 lines 43-45, user of PVR 200), the second user being one of a pre-defined group of

users (Col 6 lines 39-61, users associated with IP addresses of PVRs corresponds to “members of a pre-defined group of users”);

set top box circuitry, in at least one of the first and second homes (PVR 200 and PVR 200A), the set top box circuitry communicatively coupled to support the identification of media available to the pre-defined group of users (Col 6 lines 35-61, PVR are utilized to record and provide user requested media); and

search software (EGP server 304) that receives user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-24, user-filled search form corresponds to “user defined search criteria”) and that responds by identifying media available within the pre-defined group of users (PVR 200A is located to provide the requested content, Col 12 lines 55-61, Col 31-35), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 11 lines 43-53, Col 12 lines 29-32, the matched result is returned to PVR 200).

25. Referring to claim 24, Lu teaches the system of claim 23 wherein the media comprises at least one of audio, a still image, video, and data (Col 7 lines 25-28, network 300 operate with any type of media content: audio, video, graphics, information, data, and/or the like in any type of format).

26. Referring to claim 25, Lu teaches the system of claim 23 wherein the user defined search criteria comprises at least one of a time period, a device type, a specific media, a media type, a specific media channel, and a media channel type (Col 12 lines 10-24, Col 6 lines 43-45, the search topics which contains the requested TV show corresponds to “a specific media”).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

27. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

28. Claims 8, 9, 19, 20, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Lu, US Patent Number 7,065,778 B1, hereinafter Lu, in view of Cohen et al., US

Patent Number 6,963,358, hereinafter Cohen.

29. Referring to claim 8, Lu teaches the system of claim 1 further comprising: the search

software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one storage (Col 11 lines

41-47), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-

29).

Lu does not expressly teaches at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the first storage, the at least one media peripheral having storage; and where the media stored on the at least one media peripheral.

Cohen teaches, at least one media peripheral (digital camera 10'), communicatively coupled to the second storage (device 100b, figure 6A, Col 13 lines 37-39); the at least one media peripheral having storage (Col 2 lines 36-37), and software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one media peripheral (Col 13 lines 22-33, Col 14 lines 19-27, user requests to server for accessing and downloading data captured from digital camera 10')

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate at least one media peripheral of Cohen in Lu, because both Cohen and Lu teach a first device requests media information stored on a second device via a server (see figure 3 of Lu and figure 6A of Cohen), and Cohen teaches a peripheral device to supply media to a remote location (Col 4 lines 42-45)

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Lu would allow the media data of a peripheral to be transmitted to a remote location and allow authorized individuals to gain access and retrieve the media data as taught by Cohen (Col 3 lines 29-31, and Col 4 lines 42-54).

30. Referring to claim 9, Lu and Cohen in combination teaches the system of claim 8, and Cohen further teaches wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player (Col 14 lines 19-27, figure 6C of Cohen, peripheral in Cohen is a digital camera).
31. Referring to claim 19, Lu teaches the system of claim 12 further comprising: the search software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one storage (Col 11 lines 41-47), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-29).

Lu does not expressly teaches at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the first storage, the at least one media peripheral having storage; and where the media stored on the at least one media peripheral.

Cohen teaches, at least one media peripheral (digital camera 10'), communicatively coupled to the second storage (device 100b, figure 6A, Col 13 lines 37-39); the at least one media peripheral having storage (Col 2 lines 36-37), and software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one media peripheral (Col 13 lines 22-33, Col 14 lines 19-27, user requests to server for accessing and downloading data captured from digital camera 10')

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate at least one media peripheral of Cohen in Lu, because both Cohen and Lu teach a first device requests media information stored on a second device via a server (see figure 3 of Lu and figure 6A of Cohen), and Cohen teaches a peripheral device to supply media to a remote location (Col 4 lines 42-45)

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Lu would allow the media data of a peripheral to be transmitted to a remote location and allow authorized individuals to gain access and retrieve the media, data as taught by Cohen (Col 3 lines 29-31, and Col 4 lines 42-54).

32. Referring to claim 20, Lu and Cohen in combination teaches the system of claim 19, and Cohen further teaches wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player (Col 14 lines 19-27, figure 6C of Cohen, peripheral in Cohen is a digital camera).
33. Referring to claim 26, Lu teaches the system of claim 23 further comprising: the search software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one storage (Col 11 lines

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41-47), the identified media matching the user defined search criteria (Col 12 lines 16-29).

Lu does not expressly teaches at least one media peripheral communicatively coupled to the first storage, the at least one media peripheral having storage; and where the media stored on the at least one media peripheral.

Cohen teaches, at least one media peripheral (digital camera 10'), communicatively coupled to the second storage (device 100b, figure 6A, Col 13 lines 37-39); the at least one media peripheral having storage (Col 2 lines 36-37), and software responding by identifying media stored on the at least one media peripheral (Col 13 lines 22-33, Col 14 lines 19-27, user requests to server for accessing and downloading data captured from digital camera 10')

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate at least one media peripheral of Cohen in Lu, because both Cohen and Lu teach a first device requests media information stored on a second device via a server (see figure 3 of Lu and figure 6A of Cohen), and Cohen teaches a peripheral device to supply media to a remote location (Col 4 lines 42-45)

A person with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the modification to Lu would allow the media data of a peripheral to be transmitted to a remote location and allow authorized individuals to gain access and retrieve the media data as taught by Cohen (Col 3 lines 29-31, and Col 4 lines 42-54).

34. Referring to claim 27, Lu and Cohen in combination teaches the system of claim 26, and Cohen further teaches wherein the at least one media peripheral comprises at least one of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a

home juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, and a MP3 player (Col 14 lines 19-27, figure 6C of Cohen, peripheral in Cohen is a digital camera).

Conclusion

35. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is reminded that in amending in response to a rejection of claims, the patentable novelty must be clearly shown in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited and the objection made. Applicant must show how the amendments avoid such references and objections. See 37 CFR 1.111(c).
36. US Publication Number 2003/0043272, Nagao et al., teaches a control system for digital camera and control method for the same.
37. US Patent Number 6,631,247, Motoyama et al., teaches a system for remotely controlling a peripheral device.
38. US Patent Number 7,075,573, Imaeda teaches a remote system for image storage and search.
39. US Patent Number 6,349,324, Tokoro, teaches a system that exchanges images and audio on two ends of a communication network (figure 1).
40. US Patent Number 5,721,815, 5,721,878, and 5,930,493, Ottesen et al., teaches a multimedia server system for communicating multimedia information.
41. US Patent Number 7,080,400, Navar, teaches method for distributed storage and presentation of multimedia in a cable network environment.

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42. US Patent Number 6,693,896, Utsumi et al., teaches information receiving device and method, information release device, and information communication system.
43. US Patent Number 6,480,889, Saito et al., teaches scheme for managing nodes connected to a home network according to their physical locations.
44. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
45. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571)272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
46. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Liang-che Alex Wang
December 18, 2006

